

REMARKS

The present application includes Claims 2-3, 8-14, 17-24, 27, 34-41, 43-45, 50-59, 146, 149, 151 and 154-163.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

In this section of the Office Action, Claims 2-3, 8-14, 27, 34-41, 43-45, 50-59, 146, 149, 151 and 154-163 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over August et al (US Patent No. 6,389,055) in view of Seltzer et al. (US Patent No. 6,392,960).

The above notwithstanding, Applicant wishes to bring to the attention of the Examiner the fact that the present application is a National Phase of PCT/IL99/00521, which has an international filing date of October 1, 1999. In view of the fact that US Patent No. 6,392,960 to Seltzer et al. was filed August 25, 2000, which is after the filing date of the parent PCT, it is submitted that the patent to Seltzer et al. is disqualified as prior art under USC 103 (a). It is submitted, therefore, that this rejection is moot and that Claims 2-3, 8-14, 27, 34-41, 43-45, 50-59, 146, 149, 151 and 154-163 are allowable.

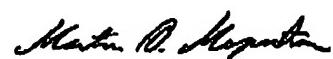
Additionally, Claims 17-24 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over August et al (US Patent No. 6,389,055) in view of Seltzer et al. (US Patent No. 6,392,960) as applied to Claim 2 above, and further in view of Foxlin (US Patent No. 6,176,837).

As noted above, in view of the fact that US Patent No. 6,392,960 to Seltzer et al. was filed August 25, 2000, which is after the priority date of the present application, it is submitted that the patent to Seltzer et al. is disqualified as prior art under USC 103 (a). It is submitted, therefore, that this rejection is moot and that Claims 17-24 are allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the above foregoing, it is submitted that all the claims pending in the application are allowable. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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September 20, 2007

Enclosure:

- Pet for Extension of Time (One Month)